Central Government within the ceiling of administrative expenses prescribed.

(e) NREGA is a demand-driven programme. The Act guarantees 100 days of wage employment to every rural household to do unskilled manual work on demand. Thus, it is a continuous process and no time frame can be fixed for completion of the process.

**Strengthening voluntary sectors in areas of rural development**

3462. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a national policy to strengthen the voluntary sector especially in areas of rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to strengthen the relationship between institutions of local self Governance and voluntary organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Upgradation of roads under PMGSY in Karnataka**

3463. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested for release of assistance for Phase-I and Phase-II of PMGSY for upgradation of roads in various districts of the State; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is under implementation in Karnataka since 2000-01. For Phases I and II, a sum of Rs. 105.64

crore and Rs. 231.76 crore respectively was released out of which they have already incurred an expenditure of Rs. 103.67 crore and Rs. 219.35 crore respectively.

The Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals relating to missing links of Phase I and II. These were considered by the Empowered Committee in its meeting held on 30th March, 2006. While approving these proposals, it was also decided that the States may be allowed to take up such works to the extent these can be funded through savings available in the earlier Phases and interest income earned by the State on PMGSY funds. The State may intimate the availability of the savings and interest to the Ministry to enable it to consider the missing link proposals separately. A copy of these Minutes has already been forwarded to the State Government.

**Funds released to Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh under NREGA**

3464. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released to Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh separately for rural employment as per National Rural Employment Guarantee Act;

(b) whether there is any mechanism worked out for involving the Members of Parliament and MLAs and to seeking their cooperation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) An amount of Rs. 1269.11 lakh was released to Uttaranchal State during the year 2005-2006 for implementation of NREGA and Rs. 1910.60 lakh has been released to the State during the current financial year. Rs. 898.37 lakh were released to Himachal Pradesh during 2005-2006 and Rs. 683.64 have been released during the current financial year for implementation of the Act.

(b) and (c) For effective implementation of NREGA by the various States, Operational Guidelines have been prepared by Ministry of Rural Development. For preparing these guidelines, suggestions were invited